

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-18

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 234142

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E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: SCUL

SUBJECT: AFO-A-KOM AND THE REV. DOUGLAS MOORE

1. REV. MOORE, OF THE BLACK UNITED FRONT, HAS TAKEN
ISSUE PUBLICLY WITH THE MANNER IN WHICH THE RETURN OF
THE AFO-A-KOM HAS BEEN HANDLED. UPON HEARING OF THE
PRESENCE OF THE AFO-A-KOM IN NEW YORK CITY, MOORE
DEMANDED THAT THE STATUE BE TURNED OVER TO BLACK PEOPLE
FOR RETURN TO CAMEROON. SUBSEQUENTLY, AT THE PRESS
CONFERENCE AT THE AFRICAN ART MUSEUM, MOORE AGAIN DEMANDED
THAT THE STATUE BE RETURNED BY BLACK PEOPLE AND SAID THAT
THE PRESENCE OF GEORGE SPICELY (A BLACK) AS A MEMBER
OF THE DELEGATION TO RETURN THE STATUE WAS TOKENISM.
SUBSEQUENTLY, MOORE APPROACHED CU IN THE DEPARTMENT
DEMANDING THAT THEY PAY HIS WAY TO CAMEROON OR HE WOULD
MAKE AN ISSUE OUT OF THE STATUE HERE AND IN CAMEROON
INCLUDING MAKING ANTI-AMERICAN REMARKS IN CAMEROON. HE
SAID HE WOULD GO TO CAMEROON EVEN IF HE HAD TO PAY FOR
HIS OWN WAY. THE DEPARTMENT REFUSED TO PAY FOR MOORE'S
TRIP AND WE DO NOT KNOW AT THIS TIME IF MOORE WILL
ACTUALLY GO TO CAMEROON.

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2. AT THE PRESS CONFERENCE, SPEAKING IN FRENCH TO THE

CAMEROONIAN DELEGATION HEADED BY AMB. TCHOUNGUI AND APOLOGIZING FOR HIS INTERRUPTION OF THE PROGRAM, MOORE REPEATED BRIEFLY HIS COMMENTS, AND EXPLAINED TO THE AMB. IT WAS THE JOB OF THE BLACK MAN TO RETURN WHAT THE WHITE MAN HAD STOLEN. HE SAID THERE SHOULD HAVE BEEN NO COMPENSATION TO A THIEF, AND THAT THE STATUE SHOULD HAVE BEEN SEIZED AND RETURNED. THE CAMEROONIANS DID NOT APPEAR TO BE PARTICULARLY UPSET BY MOORE AND SHRUGGED OFF THE INCIDENT AS PART OF THE AMERICAN RACIAL PROBLEM. TO DEPARTMENT'S KNOWLEDGE, MOORE HAS NOT OBTAINED A VISA FROM THE CAMEROONIAN EMBASSY. KISSINGER

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